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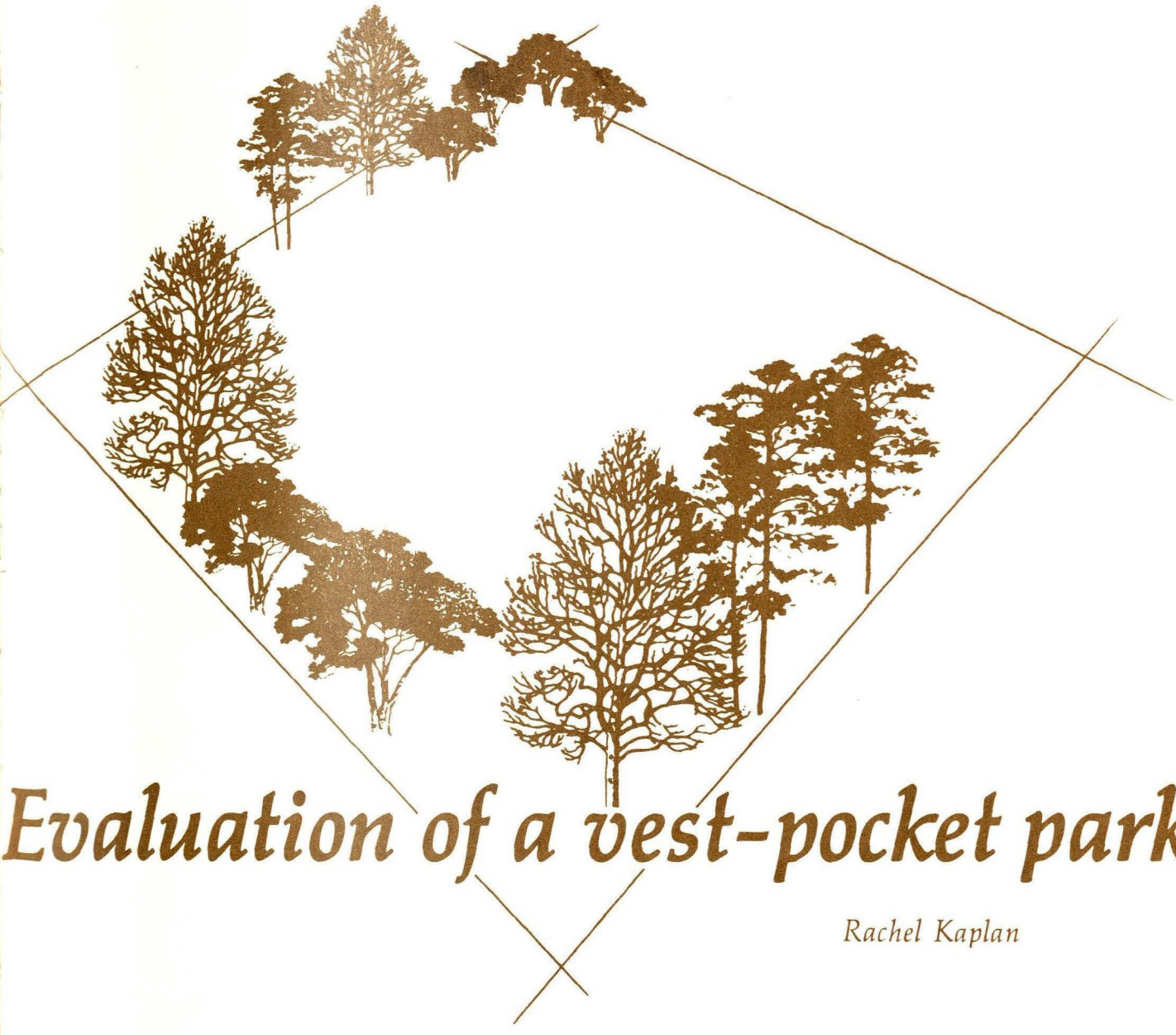

Evaluation of a vest-pocket park

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EVALUATION OF AN URBAN VEST-POCKET PARK

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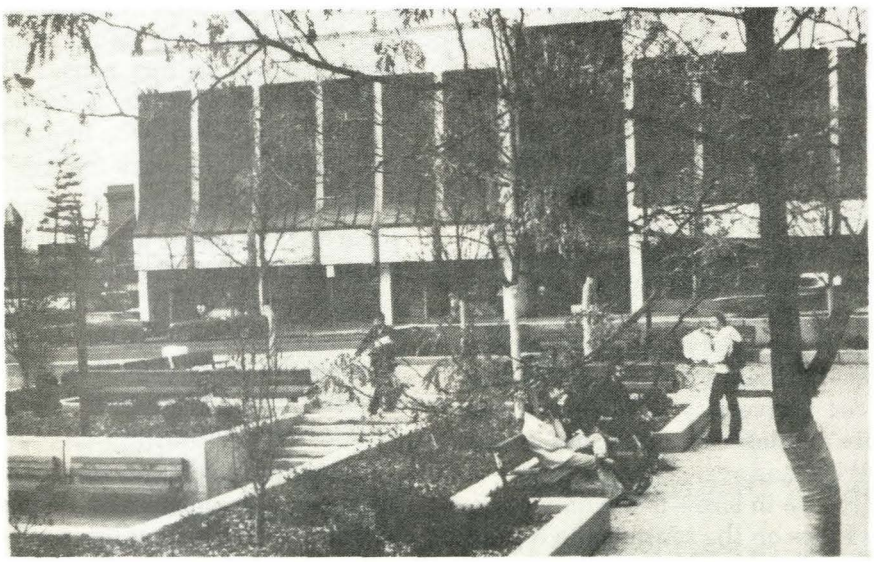

Liberty Plaza Park

Liberty Plaza is a vest-pocket park in downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. The park's design was based, in part, on local people's reactions to photographs of simulated park scenes (Kaplan 1978a). These reactions indicated that people desired a "green" place, complete with flowers, grass, and large trees. People living in the vicinity of the proposed park were concerned about safety and security as well. The park designers proceeded with these objectives in mind, and Liberty Plaza was opened to the public in the fall of 1977.

A year later, at the request of the Parks and Recreation Department, I conducted a follow-up survey to find out if people were satisfied with the park. Based on the park's popularity as a place to eat lunch, I expected the frequent users to express a high level of satisfaction. But to determine the public's overall reaction to the park, I felt it was important to reach beyond the group that clearly enjoys it as a place to sit and rest. Therefore, I also sampled the opinions of people who live or work near the park, but who do not necessarily spend time there. The results are detailed here.

PRE-DESIGN SURVEY

Two landscape architects, Terry Brown and Charles Cares, were hired in 1975 to design the park.

The Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the designers, wanted to obtain citizen input during this process. People were asked to respond to photographs of simulated park settings depicting various arrangements of green space, trees, benches, etc. Although the 24 scenes lacked detail, the 180 participants had no difficulty indicating their preferences.

Among the most obvious results was that people wanted a "green" place—a park with color, flowers, grass, and big trees. In addition, the survey showed strong differences in preferences between those who live in the central business district and those who work there. Clearly, the workers saw such a park as an amenity, while for the nearby residents it posed some threats. Because these concerns played a major role in the design of the park, we examined them again in the post-design survey.

POST-DESIGN SURVEY

The post-design evaluation took place in the fall of 1978, about a year after the park dedication. The evaluation was not triggered by problems such as vandalism or citizen discontent, but by the commendable desire of the Parks and Recreation Department to find out if the park was achieving its objectives.

Ann Arbor, with a population of about 106,000, has extensive parks and open space. In addition to the 2,500 acres managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, the school system owns playfields and natural areas, and the University of Michigan has over 600 acres that are available for public use. In the central business district, however, Liberty Plaza—a mere one-fourth of an acre in size—is the only park.

Bordering Liberty Plaza on the south is the Kempf House, a classic example of Greek Revival Architecture, built around 1850. The City's Historical Commission purchased the home in 1969, and it is now open to the public on weekends. Immediately to the west of the park is a large office building that was constructed at about the same time as the park. The building has a restaurant overlooking the park as well as several shops a half-story below street level that open to the park side of the building.

To keep the park compatible with this building, the park was built on several levels, the lowest of which connects to the shops. Seating, in the form of wooden benches with backs, is available at an intermediate level as well as at street level. The benches can accommodate about 100 people, and low ledges around numerous planters also provide seating, especially during planned events. At peak times, during concerts or other performances, there may be as many as 500-600 people in the park.

The Sample

Liberty Plaza is at the intersection of two major thoroughfares. One of these, Division Street, is a one-way arterial carrying heavy traffic volumes much of the time. The other, Liberty Street, is a commercial corridor linking the downtown area with the State Street-campus area. Within a radius of about two blocks, there are apartment units and multi-family houses, shops, offices, relatively large commercial establishments, and some public facilities.

With this diversity of uses in the vicinity, one would expect to find people at Liberty Plaza who live in the area, work nearby, or come to the park while they are in the area shopping, running errands, or whatever. But in addition to asking park users how they feel about the park, we felt it important to sample the opinions of people who have the park in easy reach and may or may not use it. Is the park serving them in any sense? The evaluation thus included two separate groups: park users (on-site sample), and people who live or work within a specified radius of the park (off-site sample).

To obtain the on-site sample, interviewers approached 163 people who were in the park at different times of day and on different days of the week over several weeks. (Only one interviewer was present at a time.) A particularly cold October made the park a less popular place than it had been only a short time earlier. Thus, the interviewing period was extended in the hope that milder days would return.

To obtain the off-site sample, questionnaires were delivered to residences and business establishments within a prescribed radius (fig. 1). For the residences, 339 questionnaires were dropped off and 82 were returned (24 percent). For the businesses, approximately 380 questionnaires were left at 90 places, and about 40 percent were returned. At each business, a responsible person was asked to see that employees had an opportunity to respond.

The business establishments included several doctors' offices and small law firms, many small shops, and a few large employers such as the telephone company, the newspaper, the public library, and some banks. We do not know how the questionnaires were distributed to employees, nor which establishments returned the most questionnaires.

While 61 percent of the off-site sample ($n = 233$) was comprised of people who work in the area, the on-site sample consisted mostly of people who neither live nor work in the central business district (63 percent). Of these, almost half (45 percent) indicated

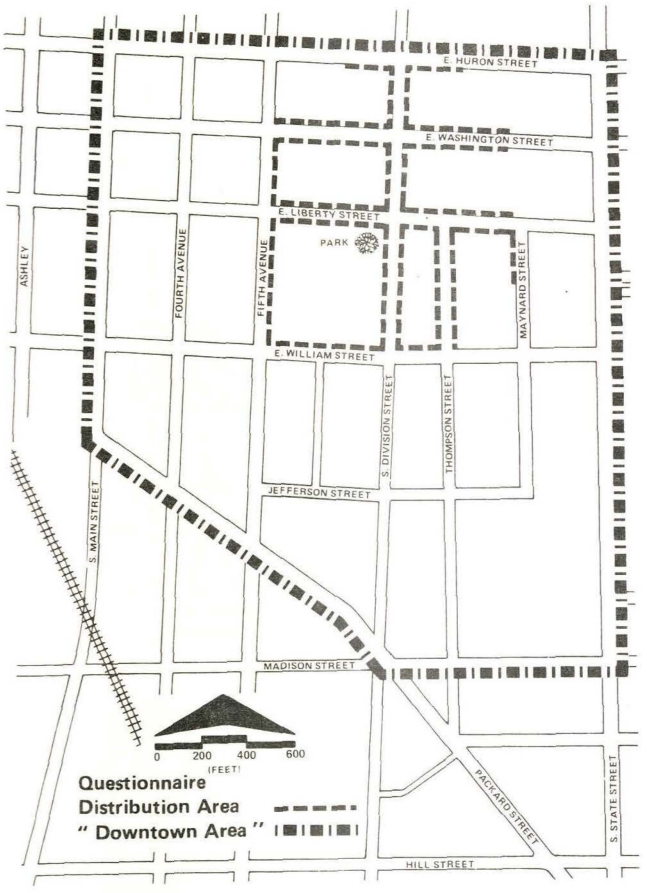

Figure 1.—*Distribution of questionnaires*

The Questionnaire

All participants were administered the same questionnaire (Appendix). It included a cover letter, signed by the Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department, urging people to reply. It also mentioned the fact that citizens had participated in designing the park, and pointed out the importance of continued input. The bottom of the page included a small sketch showing the location of the park.

The three-page questionnaire included both open-ended items and scaled items. The major sections of the survey covered the kinds and frequencies of use, satisfactions, problems, and particular places within the park that were favored. The last of these was based on a map of the park (fig. 2) which identified six regions, designated by the letters "A" to "F." The map took most of the middle page of the questionnaire; at the top of the page the question inquired how much the participant liked to be in each area "to sit in this area, or walk through it" using a 5-point scale. Participants were also asked to indicate on the map their favorite places within the park.

The major independent variables included: age, sex, student or not, full-time employment or not, frequency of park use, length of work or residence in the downtown area, whether the park is passed on foot, by bike, or by car, and—of greatest interest—whether the participant lives or works in the area.

they are in the area "quite often," while 33 percent indicated "very often" and 22 percent responded "not very often."

The two samples were remarkably similar with respect to other variables, however. About half of each sample was female, about 40 percent was male, and the rest did not indicate sex on the questionnaire. About 55 percent of the people in each sample were in their twenties; the on-site sample included a few more people in their teens (12 percent as opposed to 3 percent for the off-site group), and a few less people in their forties or fifties (9 percent as opposed to 20 percent). The off-site sample included 29 percent who indicated they were students; for the on-site group 37 percent were students.

The on-site sample was about evenly divided between people who frequent the park at least weekly as opposed to those who are there less often. About one-fifth of the off-site participants indicated they do not spend time in the park, while 42 percent said they visit it at least once a week and 36 percent said they frequent it less often than that.

Background Characteristics

As mentioned earlier, one of the most important differences revealed by the pre-design survey was in the attitudes of people who live downtown versus those who work there. The park was designed with their separate concerns in mind, and the post-design evaluation was structured to obtain responses from both groups.

A little less than half the overall sample (47 percent) consisted of people who work downtown (table 1). Of these, 82 percent had full-time jobs, and only 10 percent were students. Women outnumbered men almost two to one, and about half of the working group was 30 or older.

About a quarter of the sample were residents of the downtown area. Of these, only 37 percent held full-time jobs, and 60 percent were students. Of the latter, 83 percent attended the University of Michigan; the others attended a variety of schools and colleges. The "student" and "full-time job" categories are not mutually exclusive (about 12 percent of the students also

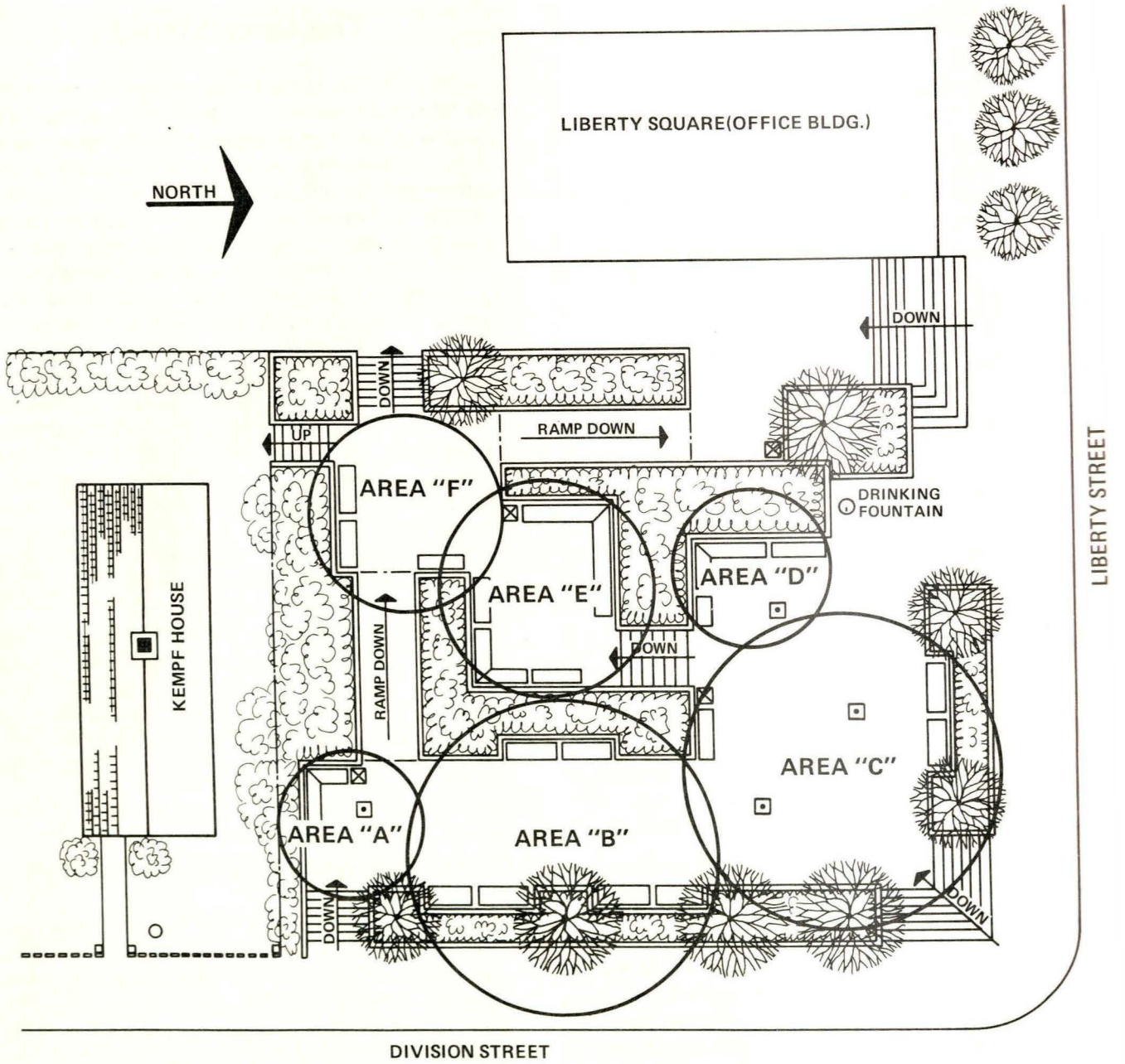

Figure 2.—*Sketch map of the park.*

held full-time jobs). Not surprisingly, the "live downtown" participants were younger, with 80 percent under 30. Men and women were equally represented.

The remaining quarter of the sample (28 percent actually) neither lived nor worked downtown. About 43 percent were students and 42 percent were employed full-time. Women accounted for 52 percent of this group, and about one-third were over 30. This group also included more people in their teens than did either of the other two.

It should be mentioned that 21 participants who lived and worked in the downtown area were included only in the "live downtown" group. The definition of "downtown" was somewhat more inclusive than the area included in the survey itself. People living or working within the area bound ed by Main Street, Huron, State, Madison, and Packard were included (fig. 1).

Of those who lived downtown, 46 percent had been there less than a year, and 40 percent for a year or

Table 1.—*Background characteristics of respondents*
(In percent)

Background characteristic	Group			All groups (n = 396)
	Live downtown (n = 98)	Work downtown (n = 186)	Other (n = 112)	
Sex:				
Male	44	32	38	37
Female	46	61	52	55
No data	10	7	10	8
Age:				
Under 20	6	4	12	7
20-29	74	45	56	56
30-49	12	38	23	27
50+	3	11	4	6
No data	5	2	5	4
Full-time job	37	82	42	59
Student	60	10	43	32

longer. Among the downtown workers, a majority (59 percent) had worked there for a year or longer and 25 percent for less than a year. Information was not available for the others.

Participants were asked how often they pass the park on foot, by car, and on bike. For those who lived downtown, passing on foot was a very frequent occurrence (70 percent), while passing by car was "not often" for the majority (53 percent). About half of the "work downtown" participants indicated that they pass the park "very often" on foot, and a similar number pass it that frequently by car.

Participants varied considerably in frequency of park use. Just under half of the "live downtown" and "work downtown" samples (45 and 48 percent, respectively) indicated at least weekly use of the park (keep in mind the survey was conducted in the fall). For the rest of the sample, 38 percent indicated at least weekly use.

Participants who worked downtown used the park most heavily during lunchtime, and not much at other times. Those who lived downtown used the park less during lunchtime (only 22 percent), but much more extensively in the evenings, during events, and on weekends.

Uses and Importance

What do people do in the park and in what ways is it important to them? Not surprisingly, the answers to these questions are strongly interrelated. So, for example, the park is important as "a place to rest," "to sit down where there are trees," "to get away from things for a little while" and to "rest, sun, and think." These four items, describing the "sit and rest" functions of the park, define one of its salient features. For the sample as a whole this cluster rated an average of 3.8 on a 5-point scale (table 2). The "sit and rest" cluster is least important to people who live in the downtown area, and particularly important to those who neither live nor work there (mean 4.0). Younger participants (under 30) rated these items significantly higher, especially those who work downtown.[1]

The park is also "a place to have lunch," to "eat and drink." As noted earlier, the downtown residents are not as likely to be lunchtime users and these items rate 2.6 for them. The other two groups, however, average 3.6 on this item. The "eating" function is far more important for women than for men, and higher for the on-site sample than for the off-site.

Some people arrange to meet a friend in the park, or go there to be with other people they know. This is particularly true for the women in the sample (mean 3.3) and for the younger members of the "work downtown" group (mean 3.4). By contrast, "people-watching" seems to be everybody's sport, indulged in by people of all backgrounds and represented by a mean of 3.6 for the sample as a whole.

[1] *The results discussed in the report are based on t tests and analyses of variance. Only results significant at the 95 percent level are included in this discussion. (Appendix shows sample sizes for the various analyses.)*

Table 2.—*Analysis of uses and importance*[1]

Park use	Rating (1-5)		Respondents'			Access			Relation to park
	Mean	SD	Location on-site/off-site	Age <30/30+	Sex F/M	Bike Yes/no	Foot Yes/no	Car Yes/no	Live/work/other
Link, shops	2.8	1.2						+ + +	
Know it's there	3.4	1.4	−			+		+ + +	+
See it	4.2	1.1					+	+ + +	
Sports	1.3	.8				+ +			
Read, sketch	3.1	1.5		+ + +	+ +	+ + +			
Meet friends	3.2	1.2	+	+	+ + +		+		
Eat, have lunch	3.3	1.4	+ + +		+ + +			− − −	
People-watch	3.6	1.2				+			
Sit and rest	3.8	1.0	+ + +	+ +		+		−	

[1] + indicates first sub-group in comparison rated higher
− indicates second sub-group in comparison rated higher
× indicates the middle group is different from the other two
+ or − = $p<0.05$
+ + = $p<0.01$
+ + + = $p<0.005$.

The "read, sketch, write" function was more important to younger (under 30) than older participants (means 3.3 and 2.7), and more important to women than men among the downtown workers (means 3.3 and 2.5). This function was especially important to frequent park users who neither live nor work downtown (mean 3.9).

The participants were asked how likely they are to engage in sports (jog, skateboard, etc.) while in the park. The results show they are extremely unlikely to do such things (mean 1.3). Those who bike rated the item higher than did the others, but not much higher. While there are occasional skateboarders in the park, they are not represented in the sample. Generally, the park is not conducive to such activites.

The park serves some other functions as well, which are not related to specific activities. The park has shops near it and serves as a midway point between two shopping areas. But in general, the "shopping" item did not receive very high ratings. The most important function of the park is that it is "a nice place to see as you go by." This item received a mean rating of 4.2 for the sample as a whole and seemed equally important to men and women, residents, shoppers, and employees, young and old. The very existence of the park also plays an important role. To "know it is there" is important to people, quite independently of their pattern of use.

Satisfaction

Do people find Liberty Plaza a pleasing place, does it meet their needs? Eight of the items dealing with satisfaction were strongly interrelated and were combined to form an "overall satisfaction" scale. These included such things as the placement of plantings, the "variety of kinds of places," the seating facilities, and the overall appearance of the park. The park fared extremely well in terms of these considerations. The mean rating for the entire sample was 4.1 on a 5-point scale (table 3). Women rated overall satisfaction somewhat higher than men (4.2 and 3.9), as did people who more often pass the park on foot (compared with those who are less likely to walk by it). Among the people who live in the downtown area, those who frequent the park more often (at least weekly) show a great overall satisfaction (means 4.3 and 3.7). While these differences are interesting, the most striking result is that by and large the overall satisfaction level was high for everyone.

Because seating was a source of concern in the predesign study, the two items included in the overall satisfaction scale that dealt with "kinds of benches" and "seating arrangement" were examined separately as well. The mean rating for these was 4.1, and all the differences mentioned above were true for the

Table 3.—*Summary of satisfaction analyses (see table 2 for instructions on interpreting table)*

Satisfaction item	Rating (1-5)		Respondents'			Access Relation to park		Time in park	
	Mean	SD	Location On-site/off-site	Age <30/30+	Sex F/M	Foot Yes/no	Live/work/ other	Live wkl/<	Work wkl/<
Overall satisfaction	4.1	0.8			+ +	+ +		+ + +	
Seating	4.1	.9	+ + +		+ +	+ + +		+ + +	+ +
City's care of park	4.1	1.0	+	+	+ + +	+ +	× ×		
People in the park	3.8	1.0	+ + +	−			− − −		+
Activities	3.2	1.1							
Having the park	4.6	.8	+						+

seating questions also. In addition, people in the on-site sample expressed greater satisfaction with seating than did those in the off-site sample (4.6 and 4.3).

The satisfaction items included the "the city's care of the park." This also received a mean of 4.1, expressing overall approval of park care as the first year of park activity neared its end. It is interesting that the "work downtown" group showed the lowest rating on care (3.9), while the downtown residents and "others" were more pleased (4.1 and 4.3). Here again, women were more favorably inclined.

Even a beautifully designed park might not be well received if it attracts "the wrong kind" of people. The item dealing with "people who are in the park" received a mean rating of 3.8; people who neither live nor work downtown rated it highest, and local residents rated it lowest (4.1 and 3.5, respectively, with 3.9 for the "work downtown" group). People in the on-site sample expressed greater satisfaction with the people in the park than those in the off-site group. Interestingly, the older participants rated this item higher than did those under 30.

The lowest ratings among the satisfaction items were given to those dealing with special events in the park: "planned activites, special programs," and "other activities that go on." The mean rating was 3.3 and none of the analyses based on background variables yielded any significant differences. (One exception: the bikers rated these more favorably.) The "activities" issue received considerable mention in the open-ended responses, and appears to be the major sore point with respect to the park. Some local citizens complained of excessive noise and excessive duration of concerts. On the other hand, many residents, as well as people who work in the area and others, expressed a desire for more activities. Well over a third of the participants indicated they would like to have musical events in the park. About 12 percent said they wanted no sponsored activities of any kind. (Interestingly, two-thirds of these are people who work in the downtown area.) While the disgruntled are seriously affected, their numbers seem to be few indeed. Still, this is clearly an issue that needs to be discussed and handled carefully.

While people seem pleased with the physical aspects of the park, with its care, and with the people who frequent it, the biggest source of pleasure is the fact that the park is there. Having 355 people yield an average rating of 4.6 on "having the park there" must be considered an overwhelming vote of appreciation.

The answers to the open-ended question "What kinds of things do you like most about the park?" further reflect these satisfactions. The most frequent comments (and the number of people who made them) were: a place to sit, benches (50); knowledge of it being there (46); natural atmosphere, trees, plants (43); attractive design (34); quiet and peaceful (28); accessible, good location (27); an oasis in the city (24); a sunny atmosphere (16); safe, clean, well-lit (13); watch people (13); place for people (12); private, different levels (10).

Problems

The items dealing with potential problems of the park revealed two noteworthy findings: first, the responses are not highly interrelated. This means that participants' concerns for any one issue do not have a bearing on their concern for other issues. Second, the problems were not generally considered serious.

Of the problems listed in the questionnaire, the biggest by far is traffic, referring to the heavy use of both streets adjoining the park. The mean rating for the item was 2.5, half-way between "a little" and "somewhat" of a problem (table 4). The people responding to the questionnaire while at the park rated traffic significantly more problematic—a mean of 2.7 compared with 2.3 for the off-site group.

Table 4.—*Analyses pertaining to problems (see table 2 for instructions on interpreting table)*

Problem	Rating (1-5)		Respondents'			Relation to park
	Mean	SD	Location On-site/off-site	Age <30/30+	Sex F/M	Live/work/ other
Traffic	2.5	1.3	+ +	+		
Maintenance	2.3	1.0	–			×
Crowds	2.0	1.1	– – –			× × ×
Noise	1.8	1.1	– – –			+
Feeling unsafe:						
Daytime	1.3	.8				
Evening	2.2	1.3	–		+ + +	

The park maintenance and amount of litter were the next greatest problem, with a mean of 2.3 for the sample as a whole. The off-site people considered it a worse problem than did the on-site participants (2.4 and 2.1), and the people who work downtown feel it is a worse problem than do the other two groups. These differences reflect the previously discussed satisfaction with the "city's care of the park" and taken together indicate a relatively high level of satisfaction.

Not surprisingly, crowding during lunchtime was seen as a bigger problem by those who work in the downtown area than by the residents or others (means 2.1, 1.9, and 1.7, respectively). It was also judged a greater problem by the off-site group (which was more heavily represented by people who work downtown) than by the on-site participants. Here again, the ratings suggest that as problems go, this is not a big one.

Some citizens had previously complained about noise at special events, and it was not clear how pervasive a problem it might be. The overall mean rating of 1.8 suggests that it is at most a minor nuisance. Interestingly, it is rated approximately the same by those who live downtown and those who work there, and least by others (1.8, 1.9, and 1.5, respectively).

Finally, there is the issue of safety—both in the daytime and in the evening. In the pre-design survey, people living in the park's vicinity were concerned about the possibility of "muggers" lurking behind retaining walls and trees. For the participants in the current study at least, daytime safety is not an issue. With a mean rating of 1.3 it is clear that few respondents consider it to be a problem at all. "Feeling unsafe in the evening" is seen as a slightly more realistic problem, with a mean of 2.2. (Presumably the fact that only about three-fourths of the participants answered this item indicates that many are not in the vicinity of the park in the evenings.) For the off-site sample, this problem rated somewhat higher than for the on-site participants. In addition, as would be expected, women rated safety as being a bigger problem (2.5) than did men (1.7).

Written comments about problems were widely scattered. The "bees and wasps" in great evidence that summer received 19 mentions, and overflowing trash cans received 13 comments. "Drunks, street people" were listed as a problem by 16 participants, mostly downtown residents. Eleven people expressed the desire for more trees. This was also by far the most frequently mentioned item under "What kinds of things do you wish could be changed about the park?". The desire for more trees, more plants and flowers, more grass, and less concrete was mentioned between 12 and 20 times, reminiscent of some of the comments in the pre-design survey.

Participation

Citizens can express their interest and concern for the well-being of the park in different ways. They were asked about a few of these. For example, the questionnaire inquired whether participants were likely to weed the plantings. The results confirm what one would expect. By and large, this is something people are unlikely to do: mean 1.5 for the sample as a whole (table 5). Picking up litter, however, is a different matter. Here the overall mean was 2.6, and those who frequent the park more often are much more likely to do it.

Another expression of interest involves a more vicarious concern for the plantings and curiosity about "what the city workers are doing in the park". Here the group mean is 2.3, with the people who see the park from their place of work and the participants who have lived downtown longer than a year expressing far greater interest than others. Interestingly,

Table 5.—*Summary of participation questions (see table 2 for instructions on interpreting table)*

Participation item	Rating (1-5) Mean	Rating (1-5) SD	Respondents' Location On-site/off-site	Respondents' Age <30/30+	Access Bike Yes/no	Access Foot Yes/no	Access Car Yes/no	Relation to park Live/work/other	Relation to park Time in park Live wkl/<	Relation to park Time in park Other wkl/<	Relation to park Live downtown yr/yr+	Relation to park See park from work Yes/no
Weeding	1.5	1.0										
Litter	2.6	1.4							+	+		
Plantings	2.3	1.2	---	-		+	+	×			---	+ + +
Own/share	2.4	1.2	-		+ + +	+ +		+	+	+ + +		+

Table 6.—*Preferred places analyses (see table 2 for instructions on interpreting table; the last column indicates the number of votes for each area)*

Preferred area	Rating (1-5) Mean	Rating (1-5) SD	Respondents' Sex F/M	Access Bike Yes/no	Access Foot Yes/no	Relation to park Live/work/other	Relation to park See park from work Yes/no	"Favorite place"
A	2.7	1.4	+	+ + +		×	-	16
B	3.1	1.3						35
C	3.4	1.3		+	+			32
D	3.3	1.3				×	+	43
E	3.3	1.4	+	+ + +				69
F	3.0	1.4		+ + +				10

people in the off-site sample rated this item higher than those in the on-site, and those who pass the park either on foot or by car say they are more likely to check to see how the plants are doing.

Perhaps the strongest sense of participation is expressed by the items reflecting a "sense of ownership toward the park" and a desire to "share it when people come to visit". Clearly, those who spend more time in the park reflect a greater sense of this, and the downtown residents also express more of this "own/share" characteristic.

Preferred Places

The park has several levels with stairs and ramps connecting them. Partly as a result of the levels, and partly because of its access from both streets as well as a nearby parking lot, there are several distinguishable settings within the park. There are numerous ways for pedestrians to enter the park.

In terms of places to sit, six areas were marked on the questionnaire (fig. 2). The responses reflect different preferences for these settings with mean ratings between 2.7 and 3.4 (table 6). None of the six places showed any noteworthy differences between the on-site and off-site groups, nor for the younger as opposed to the older participants. The diversity and distinctiveness of the different areas within the park met a wide range of desires.

Students seem to prefer Area A, a little "nook" that affords privacy in terms of seating, though not in terms of passers-by. This area is also preferred by women in the sample, but not people who work downtown and can see the park from their working place.

Women also seem to prefer Area E, a fairly large area on the lower level. This area gives a relatively enclosed feeling, providing room for quite a few gatherers.

The area nearest the street corner (C), easily accessible from the corner or from the shopping street, won the favor of those who are most likely to come "on foot."

Area D, by contrast, a corner seating arrangement nearest the entry from the shopping corridor, was highly favored by those who can see the park from their place of work (mean 3.8), and was rated higher by those who work downtown than by local residents (means 3.5 and 3.0). Of people who live nearby, those who frequent the park more often greatly preferred Area D.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The park serves different groups of users, and each group derives different satisfactions. Its primary users are people who work downtown, but many are also people who are downtown to do their shopping and run errands. The nearby residents are less likely to use the park as a place to sit and rest, to have lunch, or meet friends.

Nearby residents were less satisfied with the type of people in the park than the downtown workers and others. One would expect nearby residents to see more problems with the park than people who use it during the working day, but this was not generally the case. The three groups surveyed did not differ in their feelings toward safety, but nearby residents and downtown workers found noise more of a problem than did nonlocals. Downtown workers regarded maintenance and lunchtime crowding as greater problems than the other two groups. This suggests that those who work downtown use the park more than nearby residents, which, in fact, is the case.

Little background information on participants was obtained in the pre-design study, so it is difficult to judge whether the current sample and the earlier one are comparable. Several concerns expressed in the earlier study were not voiced in the post-design survey. For example safety was seen as a problem before the park was built, but not after. The park seems to have satisfied workers who stressed the need for a pleasant place to sit and have lunch. The general satisfaction with "having the park" seems to be common with all user groups, regardless of residence and employment.

This post-design evaluation serves two purposes. The first is its applicability to other small downtown parks. A park that serves a residential clientele and one that serves a daytime working group must meet a variety of demands and must avoid a variety of problems. Where the residents are likely to use the park less extensively than people who work in the area, it is appropriate for the park to be designed with the needs of the working group in the forefront—as long as the concerns of the other group are also met.

The study also has conceptual importance (Kaplan 1978b), in that it is just as important for many people to have the park there as a resource as it is to physically partake of it. This type of enjoyment and satisfaction cannot be assessed by a user count. While the satisfaction of "having it there" was greater for the workers who use it more often, this was the source of greatest satisfaction for users and nonusers alike. The park is passed by hundreds of people each day as they drive along the major thoroughfare at its perimeter; hundreds more pass it on foot as they go to the bank, the library, the shops, or the federal building a block away. No doubt many of these passersby notice the changes in season as they are reflected in the park—benches high with snow, trees showing signs of life. Even people who rarely see or use the park may derive some satisfaction from knowing the city has provided such a place and that it is there should one want to visit it.

Another conceptual facet of the study revolves around people's reaction to the fact that the public had been involved in the planning of the park. The response to an open-ended questionnaire item on this topic was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, with "good idea," "great," and "excellent" the most common responses. The knowledge that the public had been involved was warmly received, which should be a cue to park planners in many situations.

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APPENDIX

SAMPLE SIZE FOR ANALYSES

Each of the analyses presented in tables 2-6 was based on a somewhat different number of participants, depending on how many people answered a particular question. The maximum and minimum number of people involved in each specific analysis is presented here. (Some of these analyses did not appear in the tables but were mentioned in the discussion.)

	Categories	Maximum	Minimum
Sample	On-site/Off-site	160-222	124-177
Age	Under 30/30 & Over	240-126	209-92
Sex	Women/Men	208-141	165-116
Time in park:			
Live downtown	Weekly/Less	43-39	38-33
Work downtown	Weekly/Less	90-57	77-43
"Other"	Weekly/Less	42-60	31-47
Bike	Occasionally/Less	68-248	61-202
Foot	Often/Less	206-167	170-130
Car	Often/Less	173-177	145-140
Live/Work	Live/Work/Other	90-177-108	76-141-87
Student (age in 20's)	Yes/No	95-119	82-96
See Park (Work downtown)	Yes/No	61-119	50-90

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Evaluates the effectiveness of a downtown vest-pocket park in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

KEY WORDS: Urban forestry, urban parks, recreation, public involvement.

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